

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01133 022010Z
ACTION CU-06

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6955
INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS BEIRUT 1133

DEPT FOR CU/NEA, AGENCY FOR INA

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: USG PARTICIPATION IN MIKHAIL NAIMY FESTIVAL

1. GOL IS SPONSORING WEEK LONG FESTIVAL IN HONOR OF LEBANESE WRITER MIKHAIL NAIMY DURING MAY 7-14. ACTIVITIES INCLUDED IN FESTIVAL ARE: SERIES OF LECTURES BY VISITING "ORIENTALISTS" ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF NAIMY'S WORKS; A FILM, A PLAY, AN EXHIBIT AND A BOOK ABOUT NAIMY'S LIFE AND HIS WORK. CLOSING SESSION TO BE ATTENDED BY PRESIDENT SARKIS. GOL ALSO HOPES TO BE ABLE TO PLACE SPOTS DURING THAT WEEK ON VARIOUS EUROPEAN RADIO STATIONS AND SPONSOR PROGRAMS IN OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES.

2. FESTIVAL COMMITTEE HAS APPROACHED EMBASSY (CAO) ABOUT AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN FESTIVAL SINCE NAIMY SPENT SIXTEEN YEARS IN U.S. HAVING GRADUATED FROM UNIV. OF WASHINGTON (ALSO RECEIVED HONORARY DEGREE) AND HAVING SERVED IN U.S. ARMY DURING WWI. IN ADDITION, HIS WRITINGS WERE STRONGLY AFFECTED BY AMERICAN TRANSCENDENTALISTS. SPECIFICALLY, THEY WOULD LIKE USGOVT TO SEND WELL KNOWN AMERICAN MIDDLE EAST SPECIALIST TO GIVE LECTURE ON EFFECT OF THE UNITED STATES ON HIS LIFE AND WRITINGS. COMMITTEE HAS SUGGESTED DR. JOHN BADEAU, FORMER AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT AND RETIRED DIRECTOR OF MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES AT COLUMBIA, OR DR. MUNAH KHURI, DIRECTOR OF MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES AT BERKELEY AS POSSIBLE CHOICES.

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3. GIVEN STATURE NAIMY AND EMPHASIS BEING PLACED ON PROJECT BY GOL, POST THINKS AMERICAN PARTICIPATION THIS PROJECT WORTHWHILE AND REQUESTS AMERICAN SPECIALIST GRANT BE GIVEN TO EITHER BADEAU OR KHURI IF THEY AVAILABLE. U.S. PARTICIPANT WILL BE EXPECTED TO ADDRESS THE TOPIC: AMERICAN INFLUENCE ON NAIMY'S LIFE AND WRITINGS. IF NEITHER ARE AVAILABLE THEY MAY HAVE SUGGESTION

FOR POSSIBEL ALTERNATIVE.

4. NADIM NAIMY, ARABIC PROFESSOR AT AUB AND WRITER'S NEPHEW, HAS SUGGESTED CONTACTING JOHN PERRY, BRITISH CITIZEN HE THINKS TEACHING AT UNIV. CHICAGO, WHO HAS WRITTEN ABOUT NAIMY, AS POSSIBLE RESOURCE FOR INFO ABOUT HIM.

5. FYI: POST HAS ALREADY SUPPLIED SEVERAL PHOTOS FOR USE IN BOOK AND MAY REQUEST AGENCY SUPPORT IF FILM AND EXHIBITS RPRODUCERS WOULD LIKE SOME GENERAL FOOTPAGE AND PHOTOS OF U.S. SCENES TAKEN DURING PERIOD NAIMY LIVING IN U.S.
PARKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Draft Date: 02 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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